

(b) if so, what would be the composition of the team;

(c) the bilateral matters to be taken up for the discussion during the visit;

(d) whether any Trade Pact is being finalised with USSR; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMADHAV SINGH SOLANKI):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). Discussions are expected to take place in respect of problems that have recently cropped up in Indo-Soviet relations due to the ongoing political and economic restructuring in the Soviet Union. These would include trade, economic defence and financial matters. The composition of the delegation would be determined once the agenda has been finalised.

Contracts for Modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant

3533. SHRI RABIRAY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether contracts for modernisation of the Rourkela Steel Plant are likely to be awarded in the near future; and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b): Contracts for 9 indigenous packages of Phase I and II indigenous packages of Phase II at Rourkela Steel Plant Modernisation Project already Stand finalised. Remaining 4 indigenous packages and 5 global packages are expected to be finalised by January 1992. Currently, price bids received for 5 global

packages are under evaluation and negotiations in SAIL.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies in Uttar Pradesh

3534. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies of the Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the locations thereof along with their capacities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). As on October 1, 1991, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation were reportedly having 44 and 93 LPG agencies respectively at different locations in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Involvement of Multi National Corporation in Coal Sector

3535. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to involve Multi National Companies in Coal sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMMAGOUNDA): (a) and (b). No Sir,

there is no pending proposal as of now under consideration of the Ministry of Coal from any Multi National Company seeking involvement in coal sector.

Betal Research Centre in Orissa

3536. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the losses suffered by betal leaf growers in North Balasore area are due to non identification of diseases in betal cultivation and adoption of primitive methods of cultivation;

(b) if so, whether the government propose to establish a Betal Research Centre at Bhograi area of North Balasore Orissa; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Sir, the disease that caused the loss has been identified as Anthragnose. This disease can be controlled by using fungicides.

(b) and (c): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is already operating an All India Coordinated Research Project on Betalvine. It has a Centre at the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology which covers North Balasore area.

Plans for Stopping Flaring of Gas

3537. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state whether the Government have any plans for stopping flaring of gas and using this as domestic fuel in to save forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): Yes, Sir. Various schemes for setting up additional compression and transportation capacity for gas are being implemented in the Western offshore and onshore Gujarat in order to increase the utilisation of flared gas. Allocation of gas have been made for supply as domestic fuel in the following cities :-

-
1. Baroda
 2. Bharuch - Ankleshwar
 3. Sibsagar
 4. Dullajan
 5. Moran
 6. Surat
 7. Agartala
 8. Bombay
-

Production of Steel by VISL

3538. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the installed production capacity of Steel in the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL), Bhadravati, Karnataka;

(b) the various types of steel produced in VISL;

(c) whether the Union government propose to increase the production capacity of steel there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?